

LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Sunday A.M. -  
Oct 25, 1942

Hello, Folks,

Sunday morning again with flying scheduled for this afternoon. Tho, - I have my doubts as to whether we will fly. - It's blown up extra cold and the skies are pretty low. - again - if I were home I'd say snow - but in Texas - anything can and usually does happen.

Say, - you must have had a real shonuff. flood up there. - I haven't seen a paper in a week, - but from your letters it must have been a humdinger. - It's too bad I wasn't down the P.A.U. helping to move all the furniture from the basement! Tho this time there wouldn't have been so much menial labor as before - more of a directive force, shall we say? - If that's the case it really is too bad I wasn't there!! - A mental case, that's all, nothing to worry about!

Boy, oh, boy, - I've really had my ups and downs this week! - I've kidded and joked a lot about washing out, but it was too close to home this time to even have any



resemblances to being funny. - I was a worried  
feller. - You know I told you we have 2 types  
of planes here - both twin engine. - One is used  
more or less as a transitional ship and the other  
is truly a hot ship that requires the attention  
of the pilot at every instant. - Well. - I also told  
you how I was the last of my group to be  
checked out - because of the alphabetical arrange-  
ment. When there came time for me to fly, all  
the transitional ships were being used elsewhere  
so I was started on the "hot stuff" from scratch.  
Everything went swell - I could fly it and  
liked it. - but when it came to landing it. - I just  
wasn't there. - I had most twice the time on it  
as most of 'em got - and I still couldn't land it. -  
It was the damndest feeling I ever had. - Here I  
was - one of the first to solo at Primary + Basic  
and in Advanced where one practically can't  
'wash out' - I was ~~the~~ about the last one and  
consequently nearing the start of ~~illumination~~  
rides! - - - My instructor said he had never run  
up on a case like mine and didn't know what the  
heck to do - and I'm sure I didn't. - He said he knew  
I could fly. - else I'd never have gotten this  
far - but what now. - Well. - there were certain  
little things, mannerisms about his instructing  
that worried me - (for instance, I could always  
feel him on the controls + stuff) so as I'd figured



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I was lost anyhow - we had a heart to heart talk and I told him some of the things about his instructions that were different than I'd ever had before and how and why they annoyed me. Instead of getting mad, he said I might really have something there and got another instructor, who graduated when he did, but who had had lots of civilian flying before getting in the Army. - This other instructor took me up, - had me do a lot of air work and then we started landings. - This time he did it more like I'd been taught, and I did lots better - but still no go. I wasn't consistent - one time I'd land O.K. and the next time we would almost crack up, except for the instructor's help. - Soooo - we came back. Both instructors cross examined me as to my landing in Primary & Basic and came to the conclusion that due to eye strain the last of Basic - my depth of perception must be off. - They were going to send me to the flight surgeon for a check up. Then - the flight commander stepped in! - He said to try me on the transitional ship, and then if I had the same trouble - to go to the doctor! - So, again yesterday. I went up and in less than half the normal time allotted to solo it - I soloed. -!



Whew, what a relief! I've never sweated so much in an awful long time. - I flew for about 3 hrs 30 min yesterday - doing nothing but landing & taking off - with not a bad landing among 'em. - Now the theory is that after a few hours on this ship, I can walk in the old A.T. 9. and land it, too! - I Hope!!! Anyhow, my instructor is a changed man and I have at least partially regained some of my self-confidence.

The second instructor came up to me yesterday before I flew and talked to me. - He told me not to worry about "washing out" cause after getting this much training they wouldn't get anyone out if they could help. - He said that if it were my eyes, well, two weeks of rest would fix 'em up. - Another instructor, (who was my instructor's instructor!) talked to me too. - He said he had had a student last class who had the same trouble I've had. - and if & when I have the same trouble - to come to him & he was sure he could help me - and that there was no chance of washing now and to forget all that's passed. He is a smart man - cause I've already forgotten.

But one more dissertation - if wasn't no fun sitting down thinking about getting this near, being returned to a private - and what to tell folks back home! - But now that doesn't have to be done, thank goodness!

Yesterday a man was here taking orders for our announcements, calling cards, & class rings! Our rings are very similar to the West Point's but



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with the more appropriate designs of the Air Forces. They had 'em with imitation garnet stones, and black onyx. - I got the black onyx one. - They are really too expensive, but I got one anyhow. - I've had the occasion at times to wish I had had a high school or college ring, - so I knew this would mean even lots more to me, - so I got it anyhow. The calling cards I had to get 'cause officers <sup>had</sup> to fulfill the Army's own brand of Army ~~etiquette~~ etiquette!

I guess next will come my uniforms and a foot locker or so. - Who said an officer didn't cost? - My clothing allowance of \$50 when I graduate will take care of most of it, tho. - And after I get my commission, being on a flying status - I'll draw nearly \$300 per month, - so maybe I'll manage to survive!! - Want a borrow some money?

See, - you folks better buy plenty of woollen clothes to keep warm with. - 65% of the oil you used last winter isn't much and you gotta keep warm. Better get some more wood, too! -

I'm enclosing an article I saw in the paper about "hick trainees" at Goodfellow. Thought I you would understand the whys & wherefores of 'em better.

All. - I'll end this "book" now - so until next time -  
and don't worry about me - I'm ok now! -

Love  
Frank